*224. [*The Questioner (Shri Yalla Sesi Bhushana Rao) was absent. For answer* vide *cols* 32 *infra*]

*225. [*The Questioners (Shri Pramod Mahajan and Shri Shanker Sinh Vaghela) were absent. For answer* vide *cols* 32-35infra].

*226. [*The Questioner (Shri Sohan Lal Dhusiya) was absent. For answer* vide *cols* 35-36infra]

*227. [*The Questioner (Shri Jagadish Jani) was absent. For answer* vide *cols*. 36-38infra].

Production of TV serial on the Bible

*228. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY. Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to make a T.V. Serial on the Bible on the lines of the Ramayana and Mahabharat; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT): (a) and (b) A proposal has been received for commissioning by Doordarashan a serial on Biblical stories which is under consideration.

डा० रत्नाकर पाण्डेय: माननीय सभापति जी, भारत धर्म-निरपेक्ष शासन में विश्वास करता है। जहां हिंदू धर्म के सीरियल्स चलाये गये हैं, वहां बाईबल, कुरान और जैन, अन्य धर्म ग्रथो के लिए टेलीवीज़न सीरीज़ से क्या कार्यक्रम बनाये जा रहे हैं, उसका विवरण मैं माननीय मत्री जी से जानना चाहूगा?

श्री एच० के० एल० भगत: जो सीरियल्स बनाये जाते हैं, कुछ के लिए तो स्पासर्ड प्रोपोजल्स आती है और कुछ कमीशन किये जाते हैं। धर्मों के ख्याल से सीरियल नहीं बनाए जाते। उसके जो कल्चर्ल मोरल वैल्यूज हैं उसके हिसाब से सीरियल बनाए जाते हैं।

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Increase in the prices of rice sold through the public distribution system

*224. SHRI YALLA SESI BHUSHANA RAO: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for which the prices of three varieties of rice alone to be supplied through the public distribution system have been revised with effect from the 25th January, 1989; and

(b) whether it is a fact that the Southern States and West Bengal are hard hit by the revised prices of rice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Common, fine and superfine varieties of rice alone are supplied through the public distribtuion system. The prices of these three varieties were revised on account of the increase in the support prices of paddy.

(b) The Central issue prices apply uniformly throughout the country. The prices for the consumers are fixed by the State Governments themselves.

Poverty eradication programmes

*225. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN.
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has seen a report in Times of India, January 26, 1989, stating that huge allocations from the Centre and the State Governments for poverty eradication programmes may go down the